

The meeting of the Chatham Township Environmental Commission convened at 7:17 pm on Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at the Township Municipal Building. In attendance were CTEC members Steve Carroll, Frank Esposito, Maureen Kelly, Marilyn Murray, Dot Stillinger, Don Travisano and Township Committee Liaison K. Swartz. Absent George Crimmins and Matt Palmer.

CTEC'S PURPOSE: To undertake projects and make recommendations concerning the protection or use of natural resources, including water resources and air quality, located within or directly affecting Chatham Township.

The Chatham Township Environmental Commission's goal is to provide a responsible environmental viewpoint to Township committees and boards and to undertake projects with a strong educational component in order to inform officials and residents about constructive actions that can be taken to preserve the environment.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT -- The meeting schedule for 2015 and January 2016 is posted on the main bulletin board at the Township municipal building and on the Chatham Township website at www.chathamtownship.org. The public is cordially invited to attend all meetings, join the discussions and participate in projects.

DATES FOR CTEC AND GREEN TEAM MEETINGS IN 2015 AND JANUARY 2016

Every first or second Tuesday February through December 2015 and the second Tuesday in January 2016.

Dates are: February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 9, July NO MEETING, August 4, September 8, October 6, November 10, December 1 in 2015 and January 12, 2016.

Steve Carroll motioned to approve the February 3, 2015 CTEC and Green Team minutes and Marilyn Murray 2nd, with all in favor.

GREEN TEAM MEETING (7:18-7:37)

Reviewed and updated Sustainable Jersey checklist, due June 2015.

S. Carroll, Green Team Chair and CTEC Vice Chair.

ANNUAL OPEN SPACE WORKDAY

- Saturday, April 18, 2015, 9:30AM to 12:30PM, RAIN OR SHINE
- Green Village Pond Conservation Area on Green Village Road near Shop-Rite
- Park along the street across from Melrose Lane next to the Oak Knoll playing field
- Suitable for families, Scouts, youth groups, outdoors enthusiasts, history fans.
- Remove trash (historical items have been found) and improve trail on an old homestead dating from before 1928.

PILGRIM PIPELINE

- Township Committee introduced an ordinance to prohibit pipelines carrying hazardous liquids not supplying local areas. Committee will refer the ordinance to the Planning Board for comment before a public hearing. Mayor Sullivan noted that in fact the pipeline would contribute little to reducing barge and rail transport of oil here in the Northeast.
- We get our water from NJ American which draws from the Passaic River. A spill where the pipeline crosses the river will drain towards the drinking water treatment plant in Little Falls and be costly to remove. If the pipeline spills in Chatham Borough, which jointly with Madison gets its water from wells, the aquifer may become hopeless contaminated and they may end up having to go with NJ American also. Remember that a number of years ago Madison had to spend millions to clean up wells from spills at dry cleaners near Staples. Spills in Chatham Township will leak onto backyards and drain into the Great Swamp. We might have to get out the detergent and wash turtles and ducks.
- Pipeline page on Chatham Township website at <http://www.chathamtownship-nj.gov/pipeline/index.html>.

TREE PROJECT

Waiting on response from Joe Dunn, Morris County Soil Conservation regarding tree inventory.

APPROVE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED ASSOCIATION GRANT APPLICATION

- GSWA is applying to the NJDEP for a 319h grant to continue the work of improving Loantaka Brook and the drainage to it from Seaton Hackney stables. Frank Esposito motioned to send a letter of support for the grant, which was done, Don Travisano 2nd with all in favor.

APPROVE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014

Frank Esposito motion to approved CTEC's 2014 Annual Report, Steve Carroll 2nd, with all in favor. Township Committee liaison Karen Swartz will present report at the next Township Committee meeting.

APPLICATION/ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT REVIEW

- Golden River Homes, LLC, 11 Sunset Drive, Block 61 lot 16. Complete 6/13/2014. Application to the Board of Adjustment for steep slope variance. The lot is vacant and slopes steeply down toward Fairmount Ave. Memo sent to Board of Adjustment on August 20 was approved by CTEC. Application was continued before the Board of Adjustment, is on hold now. CTEC has concerns regarding storm water runoff especially affecting residents downstream.
- 35 Rose Terrace, Block 93 Lot 5. Minor Subdivision w/variances. Proposing to subdivide a half-acre lot in the R-3 (half-acre) zone into two quarter-acre lots. Site visit was on Saturday April 4. Steve Carroll motioned to approve a memo (with edits) to the Planning Board (for the April 20th meeting) and Frank Esposito 2nd with all in favor.
- Verizon Wireless, Block 48.14 Lot 110 (near the site of the old gazebo on Southern Blvd.) 3-17-15. Application for LOI. They want to put communication equipment on the PSE&G tower. That is actually a sensitive area containing wetlands and a brisk storm water tributary to Black Brook. Steve Carroll motioned to send a letter to the NJDEP and Frank Esposito 2nd with all in favor.
- CLOSED The Farm at Green Village, 403 Green Village Rd., Block 48.18 Lots 140, 142, 143 and Block 144 Lot 48, 1-10-15. Application to Board of Adjustment to be considered as a Market Garden under the Market Garden ordinance and variances for keeping of farm animals in a Market Garden. Also requesting variances for building improvements. Site visit was on Saturday Feb. 7 at 10:00 a.m. Steve Carroll motioned to approve EC memo handed to BOA on Feb. 19th and Frank Esposito 2nd with all in favor. Application approved by BOA.
- CLOSED JCP&L, 1-30-15. Application to NJDEP for general and individual permits for clearing of vegetation and maintenance of infrastructure in wetlands along rights-of-way in northern and central New Jersey. No date given for start of work but spring is the best guess. The gas and electric utilities have a history of massive destruction of vegetation and careless disturbance of wetlands in their ROWs. Frank Esposito motioned to approve letter to NJDEP urging better supervision of contractors and Marilyn Murray 2nd with all in favor.

REPORTS

- Pilgrim Pipeline citizen opposition.
G. Crimmins.
- Planning Board
D. Travisano, Planning Board liaison.
- Rose Terrace application.
- Township Committee and Board of Health
An ordinance amending zoning regulations prohibiting unregulated pipelines was introduced at the March TC meeting and was referred to the Planning Board for compliance. A Public Hearing on Ordinance 2015-10 will be scheduled for April 23, 2015.
K. Swartz, Township Committee and Board of Health liaison.
- Open Space Committee
Marilyn Murray, Open Space liaison. Working on a brochure for Giralda Farms. Passaic River Coalition might consider transferring property to Chatham Township.
- Communications Committee
F. Esposito, Chair.
- Any EC member wanting to post material on the EC website should forward the items to F. Esposito who will work with Township Web administrator Tom Salvas.
- Recycling Committee
F. Esposito, Chair, and M. Murray. – Frank will contact MUA regarding recycling at Tanglewood and concerns regarding wet paper recycling. Concerns continue over recycling at the condo's and weekly recycling pickup.
- Community Education and Outreach Committee.
F. Esposito, Chair.
- CTEC receives several e-mails every day. F. Esposito responds and archives the messages.
- Conservation Easement Subcommittee

D. Stillinger and M. Murray.

- CTEC should pursue a mechanism for conservation easement monitoring and recording.
- Lot grading plan has been revised to include more protection for conservation easements.

NOTES AND DISCUSSION

- What is the Township position on keeping bees? Bees are becoming stressed. Note that the Morris County Mosquito Commission routinely sprays Bti from airplanes on many waterbodies in the county. And this just in - Roundup is once again considered a carcinogen by the FDA.
- Invasive Species Subcommittee
 - New Jersey has an invasive species strike force (www.njisst.org) which is mapping invasive species and looking for volunteers.
- Updated Environmental Commission enabling ordinance
 - Review the draft of the proposed updated ordinance. The current Township environmental commission ordinance was adopted in 1968 immediately after the State of New Jersey first passed a law enabling environmental commissions. The State subsequently refined its statute. The proposed updated Chatham Township ordinance conforms to current State law, includes the ANJEC recommendation to remove the provision that ECs can acquire property, includes a couple of changes found in the ordinances of other towns, and alters language to be gender-neutral ("he" to "he or she"). G. Crimmins.
- New and very good NJDEP website for maps, parcels and environmental information at NJ-GeoWeb, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/geoweb/splash.htm>. Use Internet Explorer, not Chrome.
- Very good Morris County mapping utility at <http://morrisgisapps.co.morris.nj.us/apps/parcelsearcher.html>, hit Map or Advanced Data Search. Gives information about each parcel and has aerials layer.
- Waiting for the report card from Joe Dunn of the Morris County Soil Conservation District (www.mcsd.org/) on how Chatham Township is doing on its soil and sediment erosion control. Chatham Township, by means of its lot grading plan requirement, is one of four Morris County towns that assume the responsibility for soil and erosion management instead of leaving it to the county.
- Note final Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Option B was chosen. Hunting, including for turkeys, will be allowed, but no horses (riding, not hunting). Management areas will be consolidated into larger but fewer parcels. Public meetings were held in June. Read the Plan at http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Swamp/what_we_do/conservation.html.

RECENT LETTERS SENT

- January, 2015. Letter to PSE&G urging denial of permission to use their ROW for the proposed Pilgrim pipeline.
- February, 2015. Memo to Board of Adjustment concerning The Farm at Green Village suggesting conditions on the approval to better protect wetlands.
- March 2015. Memo to NJDEP urging oversight of JCP&L contractors doing vegetation removal in ROWs. Letter of support to NJDEP in support of GSWA's application for a 319 grant for storm water remediation at Seaton Hackney.

EVENTS

- Thursday, April 9, 2015, 7 p.m. Mike Horne, director of the GSNWR, will give an update on the plan for the Refuge. At the GSWA office on Tempe Wick Road.
- Saturday, April 18, 2015, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Thirteenth Annual Open Space Workday at the Green Village Pond Conservation Area. Fine for families. Old bottles and artifacts have been found in the trash piles.
- Monday, April 20, 2015, 7 p.m. Long Hill EC meeting at which GSWA will give a presentation. Check with me before you go in case the date was changed.

MAIL RECEIVED

- Response from PSE&G hinting that they may oppose the pipeline.
- Minutes of meetings of Long Hill Environmental Commission.
- Notices and flyers.

ADJOURN 9:03

Carolyn Scannelli